

Weston Town Committee for the Oversight of the Lachat Property

MINUTES

January 7, 2014

Present: Committee Members: Ellen McCormick (chair), Amy Kalafa, Carol Baldwin, Paul Deysenroth, Nicholas Bell, Judy Saffan, (Guest: Margaret Wirtenberg)

Presided By: Ellen McCormick,

Meeting was called to order at 7:53 p.m.

- A. **Restoration Progress:** Ellen reported that the extreme cold weather is holding up the progress of the restoration.
- B. **Land Tech work:** Ellen and Carol met with Chris Allen from LandTech in December as part of their effort to submit an Agriculture Viability grant application to the CT Dept of Agriculture. Chris provided Master Plan Phase 1 estimates as needed for the application. The grant was submitted.

Ellen will contact Chris to verify that LandTech can meet the upcoming schedule of Conservation and P&Z meetings, with the goal of final BOS approval in April, in time for spring planting.

- C. **Youth Services:** Ellen and Carol met with Michelle Albright, head of Weston's Youth Services in December. Michelle expressed enthusiasm of the benefits of a town farm at Lachat for Weston's youth. She offered that programs at the Farm could be run through her office.
- D. **Farmer Job Description:** Michelle Fracasso was not in attendance so Ellen will ask her to present the farmer job description at the next meeting.
- E. **Fundraising:** Carol reported that Friends of Lachat sent out an end-of-year town wide mailing which included a matching gift program. Additionally, she reported on good press coverage of efforts at Lachat. Carol is looking into a reusable shopping tote fund raiser for Lachat. Ellen, Amy, and Carol also did a presentation to Kiwanis in November that was very well received. Several farm-to-table events are being planned by Michelle for the upcoming month. Ellen is looking into grants offered by Patagonia. Carol hope to submit a pre-application to the CT Trust for a Barn Grant.
- F. **Lachat Signage:** Ellen will speak to Selectwoman Gayle Weinstein about a temporary sign. The committee decided the sign should read: "Future Home of Lachat Town Farm". Gayle suggested a permanent sign could be made out of wrought iron like the iconic Weston "Indian" sign.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE HELD ON Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30 PM in Town Hall.

(Minutes submitted by Carol Baldwin.)